

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

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|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| ERIC HINES,                  | : |                         |
|                              | : |                         |
|                              | : |                         |
| Petitioner,                  | : | Civ. No. 19-19252 (NLH) |
|                              | : |                         |
| v.                           | : | OPINION                 |
|                              | : |                         |
| THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE  | : |                         |
| STATE OF NEW JERSEY, et al., | : |                         |
|                              | : |                         |
| Respondents.                 | : |                         |

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APPEARANCE:

Eric Hines, No. 146993B  
South Woods State Prison  
215 South Burlington Road  
Bridgeton, NJ 08302  
Petitioner Pro se

HILLMAN, District Judge

Petitioner Eric Hines seeks to bring a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 without prepayment of fees or security and seeks to proceed in forma pauperis. See ECF No. 1 (petition).

Filing Fee

The filing fee for a petition for writ of habeas corpus is \$5.00. Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 54.3(a), the filing fee is required to be paid at the time the petition is presented for filing. Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 81.2(b), whenever a prisoner submits a petition for writ of habeas corpus and seeks to proceed in forma pauperis, that petitioner must submit (a) an

affidavit setting forth information which establishes that the petitioner is unable to pay the fees and costs of the proceedings, and (b) a certification signed by an authorized officer of the institution certifying (1) the amount presently on deposit in the prisoner's prison account and, (2) the greatest amount on deposit in the prisoner's institutional account during the six-month period prior to the date of the certification. If the institutional account of the petitioner exceeds \$200, the petitioner shall not be considered eligible to proceed in forma pauperis. L. Civ. R. 81.2(c).

Here, the application submitted by Petitioner is on the incorrect form as it is the form for civil rights cases, not habeas petitions. Petitioner must either submit the \$5 filing fee or a complete application to proceed in forma pauperis on the correct form for his habeas petition to be considered.

#### Form

Under the local rules, "[u]nless prepared by counsel, petitions to this Court for a writ of habeas corpus . . . shall be in writing (legibly handwritten in ink or typewritten), signed by the petitioner or movant, on forms supplied by the Clerk." L. Civ. R. 81.2(a). Petitioner did not submit his habeas petition on the Clerk's form.

## Conclusion

For the reason set forth above, the Clerk of Court will be ordered to administratively terminate this Petition without prejudice.<sup>1</sup> Petitioner will be granted leave to apply to re-open within thirty (30) days, by paying the filing fee of \$5.00 or submitted a complete in forma pauperis application. He must resubmit his habeas petition on the correct form. An appropriate Order will be entered.

Dated: December 5, 2019  
At Camden, New Jersey

s/ Noel L. Hillman  
NOEL L. HILLMAN, U.S.D.J.

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<sup>1</sup> Such an administrative termination is not a "dismissal" for purposes of the statute of limitations, and if the case is re-opened pursuant to the terms of the accompanying Order, it is not subject to the statute of limitations time bar if it was originally submitted timely. See Houston v. Lack, 487 U.S. 266 (1988) (prisoner mailbox rule); Papotto v. Hartford Life & Acc. Ins. Co., 731 F.3d 265, 275-76 (3d Cir. 2013) (collecting cases and explaining that a District Court retains jurisdiction over, and can re-open, administratively closed cases).